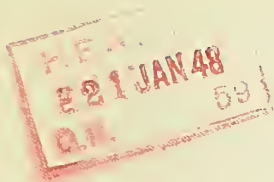


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BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1946

David J. Jones

Summary of Vital Statistics

Area of Borough	1,685	acres		
Population	2,260			
Number of Separate Dwellings occupied	740			
Rateable Value	£12,790			
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£50			
	Total	Male	Female	Rate
Live Births :				
Legitimate	38	19	19	
Illegitimate	6	3	3	19.47
Still-births :				
Legitimate	1	1	—	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	22.22
Deaths, all causes	29	18	11	12.8
Deaths from Puerperal Cases : Nil.				
Infant Mortality : rate per 1000 live births : Nil.				
Deaths :—				
Cancer (all ages)				6
Measles (all ages)				Nil.
Whooping Cough (all ages)				Nil.
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)				Nil.

Borough of Brackley

Members of the Public Health Committee, 1946-47.

Alderman C. Pether, Chairman.
 Alderman E. F. Humphries.
 Alderman J. Lathbury.
 Councillor C. J. Rose.
 Councillor H. E. Ford.
 Councillor F. H. Holton.
 Councillor W. F. Blencowe.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health : David J. Jones, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., who also holds appointments of Assistant County Medical Officer and Assistant County School Medical Officer, Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Daventry, Rural District of Daventry, Rural District of Brackley, and Rural District of Brixworth.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor : C. Morgan, M.S.I.A.

Water Works Manager and Engineer : A. J. Coyte.

Annual Report

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Brackley.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1946.

The Vital Statistics can be considered satisfactory when compared with those for England and Wales, and also with the statistics for 1945 for the Borough. The Birth Rate of 19.47 shows a marked increase over 1945, but is lower than that for the whole Country. There was no infant death recorded during the year.

The estimated population of 2,260 shows a decrease of 162 on the population of 1945. The population, temporarily inflated owing to evacuation from the vulnerable areas, has now returned to almost its pre-1939 figure.

The Borough was comparatively free from infectious disease during the year.

The sanitary circumstances of the district have been well maintained during the year under review. The supply of water from the Council's Well caused some anxiety by the persistently lower levels from month to month.

The progress with the building of new houses during the year was nil. Considerable difficulty over the choice of sites was the primary problem. This has now been settled and the preliminary works on the new estate commenced.

SECTION A.

Area : The area of the Borough is 1,685 acres. The Town is a Market Centre for the surrounding rural area, and a cattle grading centre under the Ministry of Food operated every Monday during the year under review. The main industries associated with the Borough are brewing and a large saw-mills.

The Town has two large residential schools—Winchester House School and Magdalen College School, in addition to the schools under the jurisdiction of the Northamptonshire County Council. The approved school for girls, governed by the Church Penitentiary Association under the supervision of the Children's Branch of the Home Office continued to operate during the year.

Population : The estimated population at mid year 1946 was 2,260.

Births : The number of live births for the year was 44, compared with 37 in 1945. The birth-rate per 1000 of the population was 19.4, compared with 15.2 for the year 1945. The present rate exceeds that for the whole Country by 0.3 per 1000.

The following table gives particulars in connection with births for the past seven years :—

Year.	Total	Male	Female	Rate
1940	31	18	13	13.3
1941	48	22	26	15.3
1942	50	25	25	19.4
1943	38	22	16	15.4
1944	33	15	18	13.2
1945	37	19	18	15.2
1946	44	22	22	19.4

Maternal Mortality. There were no deaths from puerperal or other causes associated with child-birth.

Deaths under 1 year. It is gratifying to record that no child under one year of age died during 1946.

Neo-natal Mortality. Infants dying within 28 days of birth are so classified. There were no such deaths in the Borough during the year under review.

Deaths. The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough after adjustment was 29, compared with 31 in 1945. The death-rate (crude) per 1000 of the population was 12.4 compared with 12.8 in 1945. The death-rate of 12.8 is higher by .9 than the rate for England and Wales.

The following table gives the registered causes of death for the year :—

Causes of Death 1946

Cause of Death.		Male	Female	Total
1	Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers	—	—	—
2	Cerebro Spinal fever	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	—	—	—
6	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—
7	Tuberculosis, Other forms	—	—	—
8	Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
9	Influenza	1	—	1
10	Measles	—	—	—
11	Acute poliomyelitis and polio-enceph	—	—	—
12	Acute infectious enceph.	—	—	—
13	Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	—	1	1
14	Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
15	Cancer of breast	—	—	—
16	Cancer of all other sites	2	1	3
17	Diabetes	1	—	1
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	3	2	5
19	Heart disease	4	1	5
20	Other diseases of circ. system	1	1	2
21	Bronchitis	—	—	—
22	Pneumonia	—	—	—
23	Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—
24	Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
25	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	—	—	—
26	Appendicitis	—	—	—
27	Other digestive disorders	—	—	—
28	Nephritis	1	—	1
29	Puerperal and post abort, sepsis	—	—	—
30	Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31	Premature birth	—	—	—
32	Congenital mal.; birth inj.; infant dis.	—	—	—
33	Suicide	—	—	—
34	Road traffic accidents	—	—	—
35	Other violent deaths	—	—	—
36	All other causes	4	5	9
All causes		18	11	29

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

Laboratory Facilities. Since the inception of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service in 1939-40, all pathological specimens and water samples have been examined at the Centre in Oxford, and has proved of great service to the medical practitioners in the area. The annual fixed charge for this service is 10s. 6d.

Milk samples are examined at the County Laboratory, Northampton.

Diphtheria Antitoxin. In accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria Antitoxin (Outside London) Order, 1910, a supply of Antitoxin is maintained at the Council Offices and is available free to medical practitioners in the district.

Ambulance Facilities. Non-infectious and accident cases are removed to hospital by the St. John Ambulance Brigade Ambulance. A new ambulance obtained by voluntary effort came into service during the June of the year under review and has proved of good service to the inhabitants of the Town.

For infectious cases the ambulance of the Western Northamptonshire Joint Hospital Board is utilised.

Nursing in the Home. The District Nursing Association operates a nursing service in the Borough for maternity, midwifery and general nursing. Particulars of the work carried out during the year under review are as follows :—

Number of midwifery cases	25
Number of maternity cases	25
Number of general cases	65

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Child Welfare Clinics continued to operate during the year, sessions being held every second Thursday in each month. Ante-natal care, advice and supervision is available at Middleton Cheney for Brackley residents.

Orthopaedic Clinics held by a Surgeon of the Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital continued to operate once monthly at the Brackley County Modern School.

Hospitals. The local Cottage Hospital operated during the year for general and midwifery cases. The Medical Officers of the Hospital are Dr. G. N. Stathers and Dr. J. Stewart.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases. The Borough of Brackley is one of the Authorities constituting the Western Northamptonshire Joint Hospital Board. The Hospital of eighteen beds is at Staverton (Daventry R.D.C.) but owing to shortage of both nursing and domestic staff, it had to be closed in January, 1946. Since that time cases of infectious disease requiring treatment in hospital have had to be removed to other hospitals in adjacent areas. The position is most unsatisfactory and in view of the suggestions of the Hospital Surveyor in the report of 1945, action should be taken to wind up the Board and alternative and permanent arrangements made. Under the National Health Service Act all hospitals, including infectious disease hospitals, will be taken over by the State. In view of the position during the whole of 1946, such action could be expedited.

In the Ministry of Health's survey of "The Hospital Services of the West Midland Area," it is advised that the Daventry Isolation Hospital should be closed as soon as possible and that the Northampton Isolation Hospital should serve the whole of the County area.

The precept levied by the Western Northants Joint Hospital Board for the year 1946 was £46.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply. During the year the water supply was sufficient in quantity and of a high bacteriological standard. Samples of the water taken and submitted for bacteriological examination showed that it was a Class 1 water according to the Ministry of Health's grading. A booster was installed during the year, increasing the water pressure by 30 lbs. per square inch.

In an endeavour to increase the supply of water a bore-hole 15 inches in diameter was sunk 70 feet deep at the bottom of the old disused well, making the total depth from the surface 248 feet and 220 feet above ordnance datum. A pumping test at the rate of 12,000 gallons per hour was continued for fourteen days, during which period a total of 4,072,000 gallons was raised.

The water level at the commencement of the test was 175 feet and on completion of the test it was 192 feet from the surface. Five minutes after the test the level was 182 feet and after 12 hours it was 181 feet. The new bore-hole was not in operation during the year under review.

Sewage Disposal. The sewage works continued to function satisfactorily during the year. With the exception of 18 houses in outlying parts of the Borough, all houses are connected to the Council's system of sewers.

Rivers and Streams. No complaints were received regarding the pollution of streams by the effluent from the sewage disposal works.

Public Cleansing. House refuse is collected weekly by direct labour. A 2½ ton truck owned by the Council is used for this purpose.

Camping Sites. There are no camping sites in the Borough.

Smoke Abatement. No action was found to be necessary in connection with smoke abatement.

Swimming Baths and Pools. The public swimming pool, which was filled from the Council's water mains, was used during the year.

Summary of Sanitary Inspections.

Number of visits and inspections :—

No. of licensed slaughterhouses	...	...	4
Visits to Government Slaughter-house	...	...	158
Number of inspections butchers' shops	...	...	24
No. meat hawkers' vans inspected	...	...	2
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	10
Cowsheds on Register	...	...	6
No. of visits to cowsheds	...	...	18
No. of rooms disinfected	...	...	4
No. drains tested	...	...	10
Nuisances from untrapped drains	...	...	3
No. of blocked drainages relieved	...	...	15
No. defects found in houses	...	...	22

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... 64
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 83
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... —
 - (b) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation... —
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 22
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers ... 21
3. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 1
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners ... 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. The number of milk producers in the Borough is six: their premises were inspected during the year and were found to be kept in a proper manner. All milk retailed in the Borough is produced outside the area. Three samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination and all proved to be satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Premises used for the manufacture or preparation of preserved foods were regularly inspected and found to be kept in a cleanly condition.

Meat and Other Foods. The Government Slaughter-house continued to operate during the year. The numbers of animals slaughtered were as follows :—622 Cattle, 2171 Sheep, 158 Calves and 63 Pigs. Upon inspection meat and offal weighing 4 tons 17 cwts. 2 qrs. 27 lbs. were found to be diseased and unfit for consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

The following unsound foodstuffs were also voluntarily surrendered during the year :—36 lbs. split peas; 8 tins vegetables; 117 lbs. porridge oats; 102 tins milk; 10 tins fish; 60 tins meat; 4 packets cereals; 25 lbs. prunes; 14 lb. carton dried egg; 100 lbs. butter beans; 9 tins jam; 36 lbs. course cut barley.

Diseased meat and offal were collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious disease were reported during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	...	2
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The ages of the patients were 25 and 11 years respectively. The latter case received treatment at the Northampton Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths from infectious disease during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table gives details of the child population completing the full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946 :—

Age at 31st Dec.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total Under 15.
Year of Birth	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1937-41	1932-36	
No. Immunised	—	17	23	26	28	112	146	352
Est. mid-year pop. 1946			163				298	

Parents who desire their children immunized should notify the Medical Officer of Health; Miss Green, Health Visistor; or Mr. C. Morgan, Sanitary Inspector, at the Municipal Offices, 18, Market Place, and arrangements will be made for the treatment.

Tuberculosis. No new case of tuberculosis was reported during the year, and there was no death from this cause.

Scabies. No case of scabies was reported during the year.

November, 1947.